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Malabar, as elsewhere, the assessment has been, and will hereafter be, based on the commuted value of a share of the net produce of the land. The value of that share will obviously vary according to the capacity of the land to produce dry, wet or garden crops.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—"May I know whether Government propose to tax the ryot's improvements in regard to these things ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"No, the Government do not tax the ryot's improvements."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether the question of holding over these settlements till a proper revenue law is placed on the statute book is under the consideration of Government ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member whether he is prepared to take that aspect of the question into consideration ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"May I know why, Sir ?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"There is no immediate prospect of having such a law passed."

Mines

Free use of stones from porambokes by ryots.

* 180 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that ryots were allowed the free use of stones, etc., from porambokes for their legitimate domestic purposes ;

(b) whether it is a fact that tahsildars were also issuing orders accordingly ;

(c) whether the concession has been revoked now ; if so, when and under what circumstances ;

(d) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay such orders on the table of the House ;

(e) whether it is a fact that ryots are asked to pay a seigniorage for stones for their legitimate domestic purposes ; and

(f) if the Government have no information, whether they will call for the same ?

A.—(a) Free quarrying by ryots for bona fide domestic or agricultural purposes is allowed in unreserved waste lands including porambokes which are not reserved lands as defined in rule 3 of the rules framed under section 26 of the Forest Act and which are under the control of the Revenue department in all districts except Nellore and the Polavaram and Yellavaram divisions of the East Godavari district. In Nellore free quarrying is not now allowed in porambokes and in the Polavaram and Yellavaram divisions seigniorage fees have been collected under the misapprehension that porambokes do

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not come under the class of unreserved lands. Instructions are being issued by the Board of Revenue to the Collectors concerned that porambokes, unless they are reserved under the Forest Act and unless they are not under the control of the Revenue department, fall under the class of unreserved lands and that free quarrying should be allowed in them for bona fide domestic or agricultural purposes.

(*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) & (*d*) The concession has not been revoked.

(*e*) & (*f*) The Government are not aware that seigniorage fees have been demanded except so far as is mentioned in the answer to clause (*a*) of this question.

Settlement

Alleged inadequacy of staff for the resettlement work in Ganjam district.

* 181 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the reason why adequate staff has not been sanctioned for the settlement work in the zamindaris of the district of Ganjam;

(*b*) whether any representations have been received by the Government or by the Board of Revenue from the Ganjam Zamindari Ryots' Association and also from the concerned villagers;

(*c*) what action has been taken on these representations; and

(*d*) whether they have sanctioned additional staff only for Parlakimedi settlement operations applied at the instance of the landholder?

A.—(*b*) No such representations have been received by the Government. The Government understand that a representation was received by the Board of Revenue from the Ganjam Zamindari Ryots' Association requesting that the preparation of a record of rights and settlement of rents in certain estates should be expedited by increasing the staff employed under the special Revenue Officer and that a similar representation was received from the ryots of five villages in Khallikote estate.

(*a*) & (*c*) The Board of Revenue applied to the Government for the appointment of an additional Revenue Officer for the Ganjam district. Orders were issued on 27th July 1929 sanctioning the appointment of an additional Revenue Officer for work connected with the preparation of a record of rights and settlement of rents in the estates in that district.

(*d*) No. The additional staff is proposed in connexion with work in other estates as well.

Village Accounts

Maintenance of the village accounts.

* 182 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the question of simplification of the preparation and maintenance of the village accounts, and if so, the progress made in that direction?